

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

March 29, 2001

5:15 PM

In the absence of the Chairman, the Clerk called the meeting to order at the appropriate time.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Gatsas (late), Pariseau, Hirschmann, O'Neil

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Messrs: M. Normand, Sgt. Stankiewicz, District Chief Toland, Deputy Chief Albin, T. Gage

The Clerk noted that Chairman Gatsas would be late and that in his absence, a motion is in order to elect a Chairman Pro-Tem.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to elect Alderman Pariseau Chairman Pro-Tem.

Chairman Pariseau addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

A request by Timothy Gage, owner of Liquid located at 23 Amherst Street to discuss the revocation of his business license.

Mr. Normand stated what I would like to do if I could is explain this chronologically and explain my involvement in this and then pass the microphone off to Sgt. Stankiewicz of the Manchester Police Department. On Friday night, March 23, we had met at the Police Department at about 9 PM and went out and did some compliance checks of businesses in the City. We checked approximately 11 businesses when we got to the Liquid Restaurant on 23 Amherst Street. Myself, Sgt. Stankiewicz and Lt. Bartlett entered the location. It was obvious immediately that the place was severely overcrowded. We went through the premises into the main room of the location and again there was nothing in that room to indicate that they were at their capacity. It was extremely overcrowded in the building. We exited the building and spoke with the owner, Tim Gage. We asked him if he knew what the count was for patrons there. He wasn't sure. Sgt. Stankiewicz got the register tape from the cashier at the entrance of the building and we went through, he and myself, and counted all of the cover charges. There were 461 charges. The place easily had that many people in it in addition to DJ's

who were there and their entourage. The bottom line is the place was severely overcrowded. We viewed the Permit of Assembly issued by the Manchester Police Department and that indicated that the legal capacity for the building was 268. We decided to call the Fire Department in and have them come in and check for any other issues that were present in the building that needed to be identified. What I would like to do now is hand the microphone over to Sgt. Stankiewicz and he can explain some more.

Sgt. Stankiewicz stated I have been employed for 16 years at the Manchester Police Department. As Mr. Normand stated, as part of our ongoing effort to monitor City license compliance we did have occasion to go out on the evening of Friday and Saturday and morning, March 23 into March 24. We went to Club Liquid. That was the last stop we made for that evening. Upon our arrival we entered the premises and found the front lobby of the old movie theatre to be extremely crowded and the DJ was operating in that area. Four of the five doors were locked preventing egress should that be necessary. We walked into the main body of the theatre area itself and found it to be severely overcrowded. I made a rough estimate of about 500 people present on that premises prior to beginning the register count. We continued walking around. I made several observations, which I will allow the Fire Department to detail because they would speak better to them than I would. Upon coming back to the lobby, I introduced myself to the female, who was the cashier and I asked her what her Permit for Assembly occupancy number was. She stated to me that she didn't know that. I asked her who would know that and she stated she didn't know. I asked her if she had that permit present and she stated that she did not. I asked her to please produce for me someone from the position of management who could answer those questions to my satisfaction and she produced a young male subject. He also did not know the occupancy authorization number nor did he know the count. In speaking with the female attendant, she stated to me that she was charging \$15 per person for entry into the club. I asked her if she would be able to determine the tally from the register tape and she stated she did not know how to do that. At this point, we exited the building and in speaking with Matt Normand we decided to contact the Manchester Fire Department as they are charged with the enforcement authority for several of the violations that I had observed on the premises. District Chief Toland responded to our location. We spoke with him about the issues and prior to that I had met with Mr. Gage and told him that he was significantly overcrowded. I determined that amount of significance by taking the register tape, which he had instructed one of his employees to get, and myself and Mr. Normand did count that. Basically what that entails is for every person who comes in they ring in an \$15 figure on that tape and just by simply counting that we came to the total of 461 paid admissions for a permit allowance of 268 persons, thereby being over just on paid admissions by almost 200 people. As Mr. Normand alluded to, we did not count the entourages or people associated with the various DJ's in that

club. Upon the arrival of District Chief Toland, we turned off the music in the front lobby area and we explained to Mr. Gage that his club was closed for the evening based on the interest of safety in light of the overcrowding. I timed 16 minutes for the patrons of that club to exit through the single door that was operable in the front lobby. I was extremely concerned with that being a grave safety issue in the event of a fire or something of catastrophic proportions. While standing there, Mr. Gage was next to us and I explained to him that I felt that was a safety issue. He stated he agreed, but he felt that people would move much quicker if there were a fire. I explained to him that people moving quickly have a tendency to perhaps fall down and compound the problem. While we were watching these people exit, several of the partygoers were handing out flyers for what they call Rave type parties in that lobby. There were several tables set-up, which were blocking egress of that lobby. We continued to observe the departure of the people. Police officers were stationed outside to monitor that crowd. We had spoken with a female clerk from the sex shop, which is located across the street, and she was very concerned about the behavior of the clientele attending that evening's event. She stated they were walking across cars and were quite unruly. She was in such fear that she went over and spoke to a member of Mr. Gage's staff and he stated that he would not be able to do anything about it as he had to stand by the front door. After the club was vacated, I conducted a walk through of the premises with District Chief Toland from the Fire Department and made several observations that again he will speak to. I also had Detective Peter Bartlett and Sgt. Thomas Gallagher walk through the club looking for evidence of any type of drug paraphernalia or drug usage and what was readily observed by the officers and myself were the small single use plastic bags, no bigger than the nail on your pinky, which is commonly used in the packaging of Ketamine. None of those were taken for testing. There were no drug charges that came out of that, but in these types of events we are always concerned with the illegal use of alcohol and/or controlled drugs. That was noted in my report. We explained that to Mr. Gage as well. At that point, I defer the rest of the explanation to the Fire Department, as they know a lot more about it than I do. I now defer to District Chief Toland.

Chairman Pariseau stated I have one question relative to the inspection. I am under the impression that Club Liquid does not have a liquor license.

Sgt. Stankiewicz replied that is correct, Sir. They don't serve alcohol.

Chairman Pariseau asked what was the keg of beer doing in some room there.

Sgt. Stankiewicz answered my understanding after the fact, Alderman, was that the keg of beer according to Mr. Gage was from an event a long time ago. He

claims it has nothing to do with the club's current status and he does not provide alcohol nor allow alcohol on the premises.

District Chief Toland stated on the evening in question I was notified by our Fire Alarm Officer that the Police Department was conducting an inspection for overcrowding and possibly other violations at 23 Amherst Street and that they requested my appearance there. So immediately I went over and arrived and I was directed to report to Sgt. Stankiewicz who was in the interior of the building in the lobby. He fully explained to me the conditions they had already found and the purpose for them being there and welcomed my participation. Apparent as soon as you walked into the building was that there was an overcrowding problem. Also, initially I observed lack of panic hardware on the main entrance doors. The main entrance doors were locked. Out of five main entrance doors only one was in use. There is a vinyl or plastic partition arranged to narrow the foot traffic to use that one single door out of the five at the main entrance for means of egress. I also noticed that the fire alarm panel as you walk into the building on the left hand side right on the wall there is an enunciator panel for the fire alarm system, which was an alarm. No alarms were ringing in the building, but we discovered later on that the strobe lights were working and duct tape was put over the strobe lights so nobody would be bothered by the flash. So, the alarm system in essence has been ignored and if a fire occurred in that building neither the alarm company nor the Fire Department would get the rapid notification. In essence, that is why that fire alarm system is there. It is an early warning system. So, that was lacking. Other violations...we evacuated all of the patrons and then found enough room to go in and do a quick walk through visual inspection. In the interior of the building there are four designated fire exits with panic hardware on the doors. The panic hardware worked. Three of the four doors we found were nestled quite snugly, perhaps because of the building construction as it is an old building. That can be remedied. We would like to have them free swinging. You push on the panic hardware and the door opens easily. We found three of the four could use some work. One of those designated fire exits had the exit sign in place but below it there was a curtain hanging. Since the curtains were of a combustible material, we don't want to keep that near a fire exit. Also, curtains would be a means of impediment when you need a rapid egress of the building. If you remove the curtain, you enter into a small room. It looks like there is some storage space in there and further into that room you find the door with the panic hardware. Combustible materials and things to trip over and impede the progress of an egress were in the way, plus there was a gasoline container and other items that not only are life safety code violations, but now we have a fire prevention code violation. Generally speaking, the place could use a clean up of combustible materials on the floor. They do allow smoking in there. I observed three or four different times where a patron would be smoking a cigarette and hot ash fell to the floor. There was an obvious danger there also. At the main entrance, not only lack of room to

maneuver only using one of the five doors available, I noticed some pieces of furniture, loose items such as small vinyl chairs and a little table that could have easily been knocked over and pushed into the way of people who had to make a rapid egress of the building in case of an emergency. A lot of attention needs to be taken care of to increase the safety measures of the establishment. I talked with Sgt. Stankiewicz and also with the building owner and told him that subsequent to last Friday night there would probably be another inspection and we would like to provide him a list of the violations we found so that he could make the improvements in the interest of life safety. Does anybody have any questions?

Alderman O'Neil asked is that system connected to what is called a box or is that just a local fire alarm system.

District Chief Toland answered it is a local central alarm station. It will go to an agency that reports emergency alarms.

Chairman Pariseau asked, Matt, do you have any other witnesses that you want to call. Do we have a Mr. Gage present?

Mr. Normand stated Deputy Chief Albin would like to add something.

Deputy Chief Albin stated upon receiving word of what happened over the weekend on Monday morning when I came in...I work a weekday job Monday through Friday, I pulled the file on the Liquid Nightclub on 23 Amherst Street and went through it. After reading the police reports and District Chief Toland's report and the report that came from the City Clerk's Office, I called Matt and spoke to him in regards to what had happened. After reviewing all of the reports, I immediately revoked the Place of Assembly permit that was issued to Mr. Gage at his restaurant. I did this for a couple of reasons. Over the course of the past week or so I have received calls from various creditors in regards to the fire alarm system in there for lack of payment and people who were looking to get into the club and remove their equipment. They perceived that I would have the keys or the keys would be put in a lockbox on the outside and I would have access to them and I could allow them into the building. I told them that that, in fact, would be breaking and entering and I couldn't do that. I knew that something was up. After I revoked the Place of Assembly permit on Monday morning, I received a call from the alarm company again who was doing business asking me if they could get into the building. I told them I couldn't let them in but that I had revoked the Place of Assembly permit and they needed to get in touch with the owner to get their equipment out of there. I have since learned that the owner of that equipment has gained access to the building, has taken the equipment out of the building and there is no longer any central station monitoring, that being an AES radio. That was as of probably 11:30 AM. I don't know if anything else has happened.

Nobody has called to tell me that they have reinstalled the system but prior to that, even though some of the minor problems in the building might have been corrected there are still some glaring deficiencies and we have dealt with these glaring deficiencies before. Part of that being over the course of the past four years we have revoked the Place of Assembly permit a minimum of four times. A couple of those times being for non-payment of water in which case Water Works goes down there and shuts off the water service and disconnects the sprinkler system to the building and, in fact, renders the building without any kind of protection. Basically what is happening now is the water is back on. The other two times that we revoked the permit was for building code violations. Several times we issued ordinance violation summonses for things that we found in the building like lack of sprinkler protection, lack of fire alarm maintenance, use of an unvented space heater in the building when the building was occupied and things along that line. Prior to opening again, depending on the verdict of the Board, we are still going to maintain that prior to opening we get a complete NFPA 72 fire alarm report from a bonafide alarm installer and also an NFPA 13 report saying that the sprinkler system is working. Probably what is most egregious about this whole thing is the simple fact that even on Friday night when they knew the fire alarm system was in alarm and they knew that the sprinkler system was inoperative, they still allowed 400 people into the club putting them at risk of life and limb. Until the rest of the things are satisfied, we are going to hold back on the Place of Assembly permit.

Mr. Normand stated in talking to Tom Arnold, I just wanted to add that this whole thing took place from approximately 10:45 PM on Friday night through 1 AM Saturday and also to give you some perspective, it took two grown men to open the fire exits throwing themselves against the doors to get these fire exits open. Also, I wasn't sure if you wanted a criminal history of that location from Deputy Chief Robinson if that was necessary.

Deputy Chief Robinson stated basically what I would give you is just an incident history over the last several months. The following synopsis of Club Liquid goes from 9/2000 through the current date. We have responded to the club approximately 43 times. A break down of that was 20 responses on the midnight shift, 2 responses on the day shift and 21 responses on the 4-12 shift. In all fairness, 23 of these responses were what we call business checks following up on a variety of issues. I won't go over each one, but I would like to highlight a couple of them. First, I would like to start off by saying that on July 10, 2000 the State Liquor Commission met and had a hearing in Concord regarding Club Liquid. Mr. Gage was not in attendance at that hearing. The charge against the club at that time was allowing an underage person to drink or consume alcoholic beverages and they also failed to notify the Commission of the change of their trade name. I was informed today when I talked to Agent Moore, Chief of the

Liquor Inspectors, that they had been found guilty, had been fined and to this day had not paid the fine and that is why they no longer have their liquor license. On October 6, 2000, we arrested a 22-year-old there for possession of a controlled drug – marijuana. On October 7, 2000 we assisted an ambulance in removing a subject from Club Liquid to the Elliot Hospital. On October 14, 2000 we responded and spoke to a 16-year-old who alleged that the cashier held a knife to their throat and threatened them and threw them out. We were unable to substantiate that although we did interview several people. In November of 2000 there were a bunch of flyers going around not only in our City but other cities as well as being advertised on the Internet that they were going to have a Rave and they were going to be open until 4 AM. We have several conversations with Mr. Gage in reference to that. On that evening we did go there and we spoke to Mr. Gage. He said yes they were going to be open until 4 AM. He very well knew what the City ordinance was. We gave him a copy that evening. At that time when they first spoke to him, which was around 10:30 PM or 11 PM, he informed us he would stay open and that he would stay open until 4 AM. The officers responded back there around 2:20 AM, again understanding that he should have been closed at 2 AM and when they responded back he had made the decision to close and kids were beginning to leave and it took about a half an hour to get everybody out. We responded to a hospital in Nashua on March 1, 2001. We responded at the request of the Nashua police in reference to a subject that had gone to that hospital in reference to being stabbed. The subject alleged that he was stabbed at Liquid Nightclub in an altercation and that he had gone to Nashua to be treated. We again responded on March 3, 2001 in reference to numerous calls that we had received regarding a fight that was going to break out there. We put a large contingent of officers in the area for high visibility and we didn't have any problems and then of course there is the latest incident.

Alderman Gatsas arrived at the meeting.

Chairman Pariseau asked is our side all done. Okay, then I ask Mr. Gage to come forward to speak. We will give you an opportunity to rebut any of the testimony that was presented here.

Mr. Gage stated the night in question there was quite a bit wrong with the club and I am not going to deny any of that. I feel I should be fined. That night in question there was quite a bit wrong with it. I walked into the building at approximately the same time that the officer and Matt Normand walked into the building and we all realized at the same time that it was over capacity and we tried to come to some kind of a decision on what to do with the capacity. We decided that if we could get 200 people out of the building within 15 minutes that they wouldn't shut me down. We tried to get people out. We turned the lights on and announced that we had to get 200 people out of the building and it just wasn't happening. We came

to the conclusion to shut down the club. I feel that I was in the wrong that night. It was over capacity. Another club shut down that night and I think that is why we got over capacity. We are not usually at that volume. My manager normally just lets people come in and doesn't keep track of the count because we haven't been over that count. We usually aren't that busy. That one particular night we became very busy. He just did what he routinely does, which is let everyone in the club that comes in. We don't run over capacity. When we got there it was overcrowded and I should have been shut down and I think the officers did a great job and the Fire Department did an excellent job. That is what they should be doing. The question now is losing my license. I feel that I should be fined. I am willing to hire a detail. I am willing to hire a fireman to come out and monitor the capacity. I will take a fire course. I will do whatever is necessary to correct this. I don't want to see anybody injured. I don't want to see anybody get hurt. That building is old and some of those exits are a little tough. I have some pictures to show you guys. I tried to revoke or fix the problems with the fire system. I just took some photos of it. As soon as I was informed, I took care of everything the next day. Again, I apologize. This was 100% my fault. I try to do the best I can at that nightclub and sometimes it is hard to control everything that goes on in that but I try to do my best and get my staff to do their best also. The front doors were locked and I keep somebody at the front doors all night. They would know better. Again, it was wrong. They shouldn't have been locked. They should be unlocked. The gasoline cans were empty. They were in the building. We use the kerosene heater. When we go down and clean the building we use the kerosene heater because with that heating system it takes three or four hours to heat it. If it doesn't belong there, it just won't be there. I have lost my Permit of Assembly four times in the past four years. I have some documentation here that I got for all of you. It just states that the water bills are sent to West Newton, MA. They are not sent to me. I just don't get them and I end up getting the water shut off. When I find out about it, it is a loss of my Permit of Assembly. It has happened to me twice. We were also doing construction of the building and during that construction they pulled our Permit of Assembly. The building was closed down for construction and while we were doing that work they pulled the Permit of Assembly and business license and everything so we couldn't open until we got all of the sign-offs and the sign-offs are also inside that manila folder. As for that night in question, I was 100% wrong. I ask for your forgiveness and please don't pull my business license. Put me on a 30 day...have somebody keep an eye on me for 30 days and if I screw up please take it, but please don't take my license from me for this one mistake. It shouldn't have happened and I don't know what else to say. It shouldn't have happened. I shouldn't have let all that go. I didn't know it was that bad. I wish I would have known that all of those people were in the building because we could have stopped it before it happened. I need to be in that building more often. I do more of a daytime administrative position in that building and I have a manager who runs it at night and he has been doing a good job for me since

we started Liquid. I also have an incident report in there that I picked up from the Police Department. I started the underage club approximately November 2 and some of these were new to me. I knew about the last one that hit the newspaper about the stabbing. I am only open Friday and Saturday night and that happened on Thursday night. They just ended up in front of Club Liquid or he said he came from there but we are not even open. We are only open on Friday and Saturday nights. I am willing to do anything I need to do. If I am instructed and given direction, I am willing to take care of anything that needs to be taken care of.

Chairman Pariseau stated, Mr. Gage, this is not the first time. I would suspect that once you get caught you try to take corrective action but then a few weeks later you get back to the same old way that things were going. Apparently, having at least 468 or 461 individuals in that facility displays to me that you had no regard for those people in there violating the City codes. Why should this Committee care about you?

Mr. Gage replied I wasn't in the building when it happened. I should have been. That one time, that Club Karma that is across the west side is the other under 21 dance club closed down that evening and that is how all of these people ended up at my building. Normally it is not that busy. Normally we don't overcrowd. That was way too many people. It should have happened. I do have regard for other people's lives and I do care. I wish you wouldn't put me in that position to say that because I really do. I don't want to see anybody injured. I am not going to jam pack the nightclub for one night to make as much money as I can in one night when I know that I can last for one, two, three or four years in that club by abiding the law. The other dance ordinance that says I have to close down by 2 AM, I make sure that the music is down by 1:58 AM every night. If I have to go down there and turn down the amplifiers and shut it down, I do, to keep within City guidelines.

Chairman Pariseau asked what were your efforts in the report that we have from Mr. Normand...the DJ's on the premises were encouraging the crowd to chant.

Mr. Gage answered I was in the main room. There are two different DJ's set-up. That had to have happened in the front lobby that I wasn't in, which is approximately 1,000 square feet of area. The main room, the main part of the club I was in and I was at the DJ booth and the DJ actually didn't speak at all. I had another individual in there telling them that we had to get 100 or 200 people out of that room in 10 minutes and we actually turned the lights on and moved everybody downstairs during that time and he was giving them direction to move out. If that did happen, it wasn't to my knowledge. It must have happened in the front room. I am not saying that it didn't happen. I am sure it did, but I didn't hear it happen and it probably happened in the front room. I wouldn't encourage that at all.

They jeopardize my license and I wouldn't let somebody do that. If I saw them doing it, I would stop them from doing it.

Chairman Pariseau stated it says that you were present because after 15 or 20 minutes only 12 people had left and then the DJ's were encouraging the patrons to sing this derogatory chant.

Mr. Gage replied no Sir, not in the main room. Not while I was there. Not while I was in that main room and I was in that main room...I went up and got the individual to announce on the microphone that we had to get 200 people out of there and there is not way...if it was said it was said in the front room and out of my view.

Chairman Pariseau asked what was the full keg of beer doing in the projector room.

Mr. Gage answered that keg of beer was back from the Spider's Web. It is a flat, ¼ full keg of beer that is in a locked room upstairs in storage. It is just a keg that was left behind. It was in a locked area. It is in the old projector booth upstairs, which isn't utilized. It is only utilized for storage and it was locked in that room. When they saw it...we went upstairs and unlocked those doors that is where all of the lights are to turn up the house lights and that is when the door became unlocked and the officer and Matt Normand saw it. It is not being utilized at all. There is no way that alcohol gets served in that building. I wouldn't serve it without a liquor license. I am happy do the under 21 stuff. It does something for the kids. I don't have a lot of competition with it. I am not going up against...drunk people are hard to deal with. When someone has alcohol in them, they are hard to deal with. I am very happy doing what I am doing.

Alderman Hirschmann stated Mr. Gage I am in the life safety and fire protection business and what is happening at your establishment is actually criminal. Anyone putting duct tape over strobe lights...those are to get people out of the building. Which employee did that action?

Mr. Gage replied we all did it.

Alderman Hirschmann asked you admit you did that. That is a criminal act to do that to a fire protection system. The paragraph that was written states, "your building endangers the public health, welfare and safety." I believe that and you are part of that by putting tape over those lights.

Mr. Gage answered yes, Sir. I am not saying I am right.

Alderman Hirschmann asked right. It is a criminal act, Sir. You are required to have that system. It is a City ordinance. To put tape over a device to protect someone's life is criminal. You should not be doing that. The other aspect, your system was dismantled the District Chief told us today for non-payment or whatever the arrangement was. Without that system, you cannot have a Place of Assembly permit. You cannot occupy that building. That sprinkler system is to save people's lives and you cannot have your business. You don't qualify to be in there until that is remedied.

Mr. Gage answered I called Central Alarm last night after Deputy Chief Albin told me that and I spoke with a girl, operator 27, and she told me that they had a single going to them and that was at approximately 9 PM last night. I spoke with Chuck Farley today from Family Future Security and I do owe him money and we are going to set up a payment plan to take care of that. We are having a meeting tomorrow at 2 PM to remedy that.

Alderman Hirschmann stated the third aspect is the operation of the sprinkler system. I believe exactly what the Fire Department said. Until that sprinkler system is tested and there is a report, until the fire monitoring is tested and there is a report, until the tape is taken off of those lights, until those doors are operational, you don't qualify. I appreciate you coming here because you are a brave man for coming down here, but these are life safety issues. We cannot bend at all. I want you to know that. Thank you.

Alderman Gatsas stated I apologize to the members of the Committee for being late and I apologize to the other people who testified ahead of me. Mr. Gage, I think that this isn't the first occurrence and when you are talking about youth's lives that is pretty important. To sit there and say that you didn't know anything about these things, this goes back almost two years and when you have late payments on water bills...

Mr. Gage interjected those late payments were due to...they should have been sent...there is also another piece of documentation...

Alderman Gatsas interjected let me just finish. I heard what you said about them being sent to the wrong place, but obviously you didn't notify anybody to send them someplace else.

Mr. Gage replied well I notified the owner of the building. I told him that I needed to have them sent to me so that I could get take care of them and he didn't send them the second time. At that point, we just said okay why don't we just have them sent to me so I can take care of it directly.

Alderman Gatsas asked are you saying that the manager that you had there had no conception of how many people went in the building.

Mr. Gage answered not until I got there. I wasn't in the building until approximately 11:30 PM.

Alderman Gatsas asked so he couldn't tell the difference between a crowd of 200 and 400.

Mr. Gage answered it was definitely over capacity.

Alderman Gatsas responded my question is he couldn't tell the difference between 200 and 400.

Mr. Gage asked me.

Alderman Gatsas answered your or the manager. You weren't there. The manager couldn't?

Mr. Gage replied I couldn't and he should have. He was incorrect by doing so. He shouldn't have let all of those people in that building. We sat down and I asked him what he was doing and why he let that many people in the building. He said I just didn't know. Ultimately it is my fault. I should have trained him better in that area. I should have sat down and gone over the occupancy permit with him and I didn't. I didn't. I should have.

Alderman Gatsas stated thank God there wasn't a loss of life because this would be a different stage and I think that putting tape, as Alderman Hirschmann talked about, over the light fixtures for safety that didn't just happen. It has been there. Obviously you had no regard for it for a long time or you would have fixed the situation a long time ago. For not having any regard for life, why should we have any regard for your license?

Mr. Gage replied I do have a regard for life. It was a mistake. I shouldn't have done it. All I can say is if I am not trusted to do so, I wish I was and I can see your point where I wouldn't be but I would be willing to pay fines subjected to myself and the company and hire a fireman and a detail to be monitored. Like I said earlier, I would like to go through a fire safety course and do whatever is necessary to put myself on track so I can do things the right way. The sprinkler heads froze and when they froze they popped and that is why the sprinkler wasn't working.

Alderman O'Neil stated for the first time as an Alderman I am speechless. Let me say this, Mr. Gage, obviously this is a pretty profitable business and that is why you are here tonight. I did some rough numbers and you are doing pretty well there. Sure you can afford to pay for a firefighter now or a police officer, but there was just total disregard for your clients and for their safety. I am generally a guy that likes to give people a break but you are not going to get a break from me. You shouldn't be doing business anywhere in my opinion and you certainly shouldn't be doing business in the City of Manchester.

Alderman O'Neil moved to denial the appeal. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Gatsas duly recorded as abstaining.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee